

Varteresian Featured at National Geriatric Psychiatry Meeting



Taya Varteresian, D.O., Geropsychiatrist with the LACDMH GENESIS program presented a workshop at the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry's Annual National meeting in Washington DC on March 18, 2016. She spoke about the unique home tele-psychiatry program being done by the LACDMH Older Adult System of Care (OASOC) Bureau GENESIS Program.

The home tele-psychiatry program involves a GENESIS staff member doing a home visit with the patient using a DMH laptop equipped with a camera and its own hotspot. A psychiatrist is located at a hub. A tele-

psychiatry connection with the patient is made via the computer. The psychiatrist is able to schedule and see more patients remotely.

Dr. Varteresian stated, "It has been rewarding to be able to serve more patients both efficiently and effectively—fewer no shows is a plus as well." The older adult patient population being served often does not have computers or Wifi. Through tele-psychiatry, the patients not only get access to a psychiatrist but get to see them more often.

Sarah Gelberd, M.D., Medical Director, Older Adult System of Care, stated, "We are very pleased at the high degree of patient satisfaction with this option."

The OA FCCS programs are starting to expand use of tele-psychiatry under the direction of Carlotta Childs Seagle, L.C.S.W., OASOC Deputy Director. Theion Perkins, R.N., Clinical Program Head, is training the OA FCCS programs based on the GENESIS experience.